Research Extracted XK

50

In the account that follows of the research that is being conducted in the laboratories of the University it will be observed that the fullest details are given of the work of the School of Research which was established two years ago in the Faculty of Applied Science. The amount that has already been accomplished will be a surprise to many readers and the earnestness of those engaged in it are a favourable indication of what may be looked for in the near future. Shorter outlines are given of the research work of the pure science departments, but individual professors and members of the staff have attained results which when published in journals of learned societies or our own "Studies" have attracted attention. The University is being equipped with a magnificent series of laboratories in which the external appliances are ready for as good results in research as any in most universities in so far as they depend upon equipment. The account of what is being done in the Faculty of Medicine will be given in the next issue.

One of the chief causes which have interfered with a larger and more rapid development of research in the University has been the burden that for many years has fallen upon the staff in order to do the undergraduate teaching. It must not be forgotten that for many years the University went on its way in deep poverty. Then just at the time that a favourable government gave it more liberal financial help the University began to grow very rapidly. About fifteen years ago the attendance of students took a forward leap and the growth kept on rapidly until the outbreak of the war. Those ten years were years in

which building went on apace. Large amounts of money were spent on necessary buildings, but in spite of all that was done we are still sadly overcrowded and ill-equipped in several departments of university life. The large numbers of students had to be taught with too small a staff which in most departments has never been large enough. Men were required to put so much time on undergraduate instruction that in too many cases there was not the energy and inclination left for research work.

Happily this period seems to be passing now. More relief will we hope be given to those who are able and desirous to do research work. And only so shall we keep the university at a high level. The undergraduate work itself will suffer unless there are groups of men in all the faculties intent on research from whom the younger men who join the staff will be stimulated to investigate for themselves. A spirit of this sort will be the life of the university and will win distinction for it. And such a spirit when once it begins will spread and infect the juniors with enthusiasm. If the Province realises that the University is a centre of scientific industry, that the spirit of enquiry is awake, and that the youth of the country are inspired with enthusiasm and are being sent out filled with a keenness for research and science the people will support any Government that will devise liberal things for us. It seems probable that in the next four years a large number of the brightest pupils from the schools will turn towards the university. The war has shown us as never before what fine quality they have, and the large number

of able graduates of this university who hold academic and scientific positions in Canada and the United States are another proof of the good material at our disposal. This material is worthy of the best that can be given, and it is our duty as a university to provide the best. In the next generation the University of Toronto should become as well known for its research spirit and accomplishment as it has been so long for its undergraduate courses and training.

March 17th, 1919.